



Feature listing from December 2003

December 2003; BTME & ClubHouse Preview; Downfield GC; Compact Tractors; Architecture; Bio-tech

January 2004; Ipswich GC Profile; Grass Seed; Environment Competition Awards; Utility Vehicles (sit in)

February 2004; Harrogate Review 2004; Tyneside GC; Utility Vehicles (sit on); Irrigation

March 2004; R&A Best Practice; Trentham Park GC; Drainage; Spraying

April 2004; Know your Rules; Tournament Preparation; Landmarks in Greenkeeping; Security

May 2004; Goodwood Club; Seed or Turf?; Biological Product Survey; Water Features; Recycling; BIGGA Environment Competition

June 2004; Fairy Rings; Biologicals; The Grove; Kubota Profile; Turf; Sand and Rootzone

July 2004; Royal Troon Open Preview, Mowing, Disease Analysis

August 2004; Neil Thomas Memorial Golf Day; Open review; Royal Cinque Ports; Irrigation; Mowers (2); Saltex Preview; Best Practice; Top Dressing

September 2004; Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Preview; Ravensworth Golf Club; Turf Disease; Royal Holloway College; Tractors; The Greener Approach to Greenkeeping

October 2004; STRI 75th Anniversary; Kenwick Park GC; Ecology; John Deere National Team Championship; Comrie GC; CV Advice; Top Dressing; Saltex Review; Aeration

November 2004; Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Final; The BIGGA National Championship; Comrie GC; CV Advice; Drainage; Construction; Fences

December 2004; BTME & ClubHouse Preview; Henley GC; Grass Identification; Trees; Environmental Winner; BIGGA Delegation; Interview Advice; College Listings

January 2005; Sir Michael Bonallack; Parkstone GC; Machinery Servicing; Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarship; Recycled Products; John Deere Team Championship; Tees; Negotiation Advice

February 2005; Harrogate 2005 Review; Meet the Chairman; Environmental Competition; Tyres; Coombe Hill GC

March 2005; Alwoodley GC; Difficult Areas; Drainage; Irrigation; Greens

April 2005; Augusta Syndrome; Thornhill GC; Difficult Areas Part 2; Turf Tonics; BIGGA Delegation; Fescue Grass

May 2005; Hellidon Lakes; Power Mowers; Pest Control; Cutting Heights Survey; Nozzles

June 2005; Minchinhampton GC; Aeration; Rigby Taylor Profile; Chemical Useage; Top Dressing; Jim Arthur Tribute

July 2005; Loch Lomond GC; St. Andrews; Mini Excavators; Disease; Finance; Scholarship

August 2005; Ramsey GC; Open Review; Quad Bikes; Top Dressing; BIGGA Golf Day; Anthracnose; National Championship Preview

September 2005; John O'Gaunt GC; Drainage Special; Security; Student of the Year; Massey Ferguson Profile

October 2005; Laleham GC; Dollar Spot; Utility Vehicles; Bio Oil; Pneumatic Fracturing; Best Practice

November 2005; Chipping Norton GC; National Championship; Course Construction; Fertilisers; Servicing

Christmas Message

With Christmas just around the corner my year as Chairman will soon be over. Predictably, it has flown by, so before I take my leave I thought I might share with you some of my reflections on BIGGA 2005. I thought I would start with the last verse from a popular seasonal song, which has always rung true for me.



*'I could have been someone, well so could anyone
You took my dreams from me, when I first found you
I kept them with me babe, I put them with my own
Can't make it all alone, I built my dreams around you
The boys of the NYPD choir were singing 'Galway Bay'
And the bells are ringing out for Christmas Day'
(Kirsty MacColl and the Pogues: Fairytale of New York)*

The lines, 'I could have been someone' and 'Can't make it all alone' seem relevant to our own search for advancement and our understanding that together we can achieve it. They hint at the reasons why we are all part of our Association.

During my year as Chairman I have heard every conceivable point of view from 'The Association should become a union and strike in support of down-trodden greenkeepers everywhere' to 'The Association should not waste its time and money trying to support and educate those who refuse to help themselves. Put the subs up really high and let's have an Association which provides high quality assistance to those who will pay for it.'

I stress that these are the extremes, the dogmatic stances of the few. The vast majority of members I have had dealings with lie somewhere in the middle. They believe in the general principle that the Association should be accessible to all and provide the same level of benefits and opportunities for all. There are of course varying opinions on how best to achieve this.

I would just like to thank all those who have given their opinion either in person or through letters or the bulletin board. Your passion, whether in support of or against what we are trying to do, is much appreciated. Just knowing that BIGGA can arouse such passion augers well for the future. People care and that's what matters. When people care there are grounds for optimism and hope.

'I can see a better time, when all our dreams come true'. From the very start of my year as Chairman I left no one in any doubt as to what my ambitions were. I wanted to bring more opportunities for support and advancement to core greenkeepers. I have geared all my energies towards this goal and successes to date include major additional funding for education at Section level, the introduction of targeted education for greenkeepers and deputies at Harrogate and a new initiative on a mediation service for greenkeepers in trouble at work.

We have recently set up a 'bulletin board' for Section administrators, Regional administrators and HQ staff to talk directly to each other so the old problem of poor communication and remoteness can be addressed. As the policy review takes shape, I am confident that further assistance to core greenkeepers is on the way.

'I've got a feeling, this year's for me and you'. While core greenkeeper advancement remains my primary goal, I have discovered that it is also imperative that we dream big and are not afraid to push forward with youthful vigour and energy. As Vice Chairman, Richard Whyman has shown the type of drive and ambition that gives me even greater confidence of major advancements in the future.

What has also become crystal clear to me and should be made plain to all is that we are unlikely to achieve significant progress on our own. The whole industry is strained by the current economic climate and it affects all who have a vested interest in golf.

The Pro's, the Secretaries, the house staff, the course staff, the R&A, the Golf Unions, the STRI and other agronomists, the architects, the constructors, the GTC, the colleges and the trade. We are all in the same boat and we need to help and support each other. The amount of cooperation between these bodies is constantly increasing and the joint initiatives at Harrogate Week bear testimony to this fact. Like the boys from the NYPD choir, we all need to sing in harmony from the same hymn sheet.

I had not appreciated just how much our prosperity and strength lies in the close bonds we have developed with all of the above. Our futures are interdependent and neither we nor anyone else can afford to be insular and ignore the needs of others. I was fortunate enough to attend the Secretaries Association conference in Liverpool this year. I was struck by the similarity of their problems with ours such as the interference and lack of respect from some members, the low budgets and the resistance to change.

The recent initiatives for us both to share a platform on golf club wages and to draft a joint document on risk assessment are massive steps forward. We all go through ups and downs but as long as we can share our difficulties we can maintain our optimism and rise above the humdrum.

It is the greatest folly of any Chairman to start giving advice, so here goes. I would advise that this Christmas you park yourself on your most comfortable sofa, get yourself a bottle of your favourite tippie and plug yourself in to Kirsty MacColl and the Pogues most joyous celebration of the frailties of the human condition. It is our basic need for acceptance and the necessity of our dependence upon each other, which in the end unites us all.

'The boys of the NYPD choir still singing 'Galway Bay'
And the bells are ringing out for Christmas Day'
Happy Christmas, have a good one!

K. Daly

Chairman